

CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR HELPS STRIKING BUTTON WORKERS AND I. C. SHOPMEN

Responding to appeals for assistance from the striking shopmen on the Illinois Central and the button workers at Muscatine, Iowa, the Chicago Federation of Labor yesterday gave \$100 to the latter, and planned for the immediate contribution to the relief fund of the former.

M. E. Murray, financial secretary of the Burnside system federation, asked the delegates to make an appropriation for the strikers, declaring that with slight financial aid the shopmen would be able to stay out against the road, and force it to ask a settlement. Many delegates took part in the discussion, and the sentiment was for immediate action on the request of the shopmen. It was decided that quicker action could be secured in raising a larger amount by referring the matter to the executive committee, and this was done, with the recommendation that the committee devise ways and means to raise the money at the earliest possible time.

Miss Catherine Finnegan, an organizer of the Women's Trades Union League, and in charge of the button workers' strike at Muscatine, appealed to the federation for funds to aid the strikers, telling of the little children who sew buttons on cardboard for 1½ cents a gross, and saying they had formed a union to help their parents. She said the youngsters were sorry because Santa Claus would not visit them Christmas,

but would rather have their fathers and mothers win their struggle. Miss Finnegan asked the delegates to play Santa Claus.

The response was instant. Miss Finnegan collected \$55.40 from the delegates as individuals, and the federation as a body swelled the amount to \$100.

The federation promised the Bridge Tenders' union its assistance in an effort to get an increase in salaries. Resolutions were adopted and ordered sent to each congressman from Cook county urging the passage of the Esch bill, which prohibits the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.



Go to the dress-makers for trying times.